This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving images for display on an output device, said method comprising:

comparing dimensions of a bitmap itself, representing an image selected for display on the output device, with dimensions of bitmaps stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from the cache, when the dimensions of the bitmap matches with the the dimensions of the bitmap itself representing the image selected for display on said output device; and

storing in the cache the bitmap representing the image, if the dimensions of the bitmap itself, representing the image, ~~does~~ not match with the dimensions of any bitmap stored on the cache.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the image selected for display comprises a character associated with a font set.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said storing further comprises:

assigning a unique identifier to the bitmap stored in the cache.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said method further comprises:

including the unique identifier of the bitmap stored in the cache in a file sent to the output device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said method further comprises:

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retrieving from the cache the bitmap corresponding to the unique identifier in response to a request to display said file on said output device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the cache comprises a linked list data structure having length elements.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein

a length element of the linked list data structure is associated with a unique length value and the elements of the linked list data structure are organized in order of increasing length values.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said storing the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with the length element of the linked list data structure corresponding to a length value of the bitmap.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said storing the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with a width element corresponding to a width value of the bitmap, wherein the width element is associated with the length element corresponding to the length value of the bitmap.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a printer.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer program code for a method for retrieving images for display on an output device, said method comprising:

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comparing dimensions of a bitmap itself, representing an image selected for display on the output device, with dimensions of bitmaps stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from the cache, when the dimensions of the bitmap matches with the the dimensions of the bitmap itself representing the image selected for display on said output device; and

storing in the cache the bitmap representing the image, if the dimensions of the bitmap itself, representing the image, does not match with the dimensions of any bitmap stored on the cache.

12. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein

the image selected for display comprises a character associated with a font set.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein said storing further comprises:

assigning a unique identifier to the bitmap stored in the cache.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

including the unique identifier of the bitmap stored in the cache in a file sent to the output device.

15. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said method further comprises:

retrieving from the cache the bitmap corresponding to the unique identifier in response to a request to display said file on said output device.

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16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein:

the cache comprises a linked list data structure having length elements.

17. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein:

a length element of the linked list data structure is associated with a unique length value and the elements of the linked list data structure are organized in order of increasing length values.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 17, wherein said storing the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with the length element of the linked list data structure corresponding to a length value of the bitmap.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein said storing the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with a width element corresponding to a width value of the bitmap, wherein the width element is associated with the length element corresponding to the length value of the bitmap.

20. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein the output device comprises a printer.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and storing a method of retrieving images for display on an output

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device wherein upon execution of said method on said processor, said method comprises:

comparing dimensions of a bitmap itself, representing an image selected for display on the output device, with dimensions of bitmaps stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from the cache, when the dimensions of the bitmap matches with the the dimensions of the bitmap itself representing the image selected for display on said output device; and

storing in the cache the bitmap representing the image, if the dimensions of the bitmap itself, representing the image, does not match with the dimensions of any bitmap stored on the cache.

22. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein:

the image selected for display comprises a character associated with a font set.

23. (Previously Presented) An output file format comprising:

a cache section including at least one bitmap associated with a unique identifier; and

a data section including a plurality of occurrences of the one unique identifier associated with the at least one bitmap in the cache section, wherein each occurrence of the unique identifier is associated with a specified position, and for each occurrence of the unique identifier in the data section, an image represented by the bitmap associated with the unique identifier is displayed on an output device in the specified position.

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